

This Week at Unity Church

May 24-30, 2015

Welcome visitors! After the service today, please stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall to introduce yourself and learn more about Unity Church.

Spring Canvass Update

We're excited to see that people have been stepping up to address the pledge shortfall for the 2015 budget. So far, we've raised an additional \$16,354 towards our goal of \$52,000. If you've helped us get this far, many thanks! However, we still have some distance to make up in order to present the Board of Trustees with a revised (and balanced) budget in June. Ideally, we'd like to close the gap through new/increased pledges or one-time gifts, which would allow us to sustain all the vibrant and visionary work being done by this congregation — your congregation. Pledges, pledge increases, and one-time gifts can be made online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Unity Church 2015 Congregational Survey

The 2015 congregational survey (<http://bit.ly/2015ucuSurvey>) is online and waiting for you to tell the Board of Trustees how you feel about this religious community, the work we are doing, and its impact in your life and the lives of others. The survey is our board's best tool to measure our progress on our mission and movement toward our collective vision. We need to hear from everyone! Paper copies are available in Parish Hall on Sundays and by contacting the church office. The deadline is June 3.

Habitat for Humanity Summer Build

Work weeks: June 22-26 and July 6-10

Unity Church members will build a home with Habitat For Humanity again this year. We will do this with other neighborhood churches as a group called Faith Builders. Sign up in the Parish Hall today or online: <http://bit.ly/faithbuilders2015>. This will be new construction in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. Contact: Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com or 612-408-0486.

Coming of Age (COA) Family Orientation

Wednesday, May 27 • 7:00–8:15 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

This orientation for parents and youth participants will answer questions and explain the workings and expectations of the Coming of Age program. We will go over the schedule and discuss the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved — selecting a mentor will be a primary topic. Please make every effort to attend this required meeting if you are considering registering your child in COA.

Be a Coming of Age Mentor

Mentors help guide Unity's 9th grade "Agers" as they spend a church year grappling with and formulating their spiritual identity credo. If you are interested in learning more and possibly becoming a mentor for the 2015–16 year, contact Drew Danielson at 651-228-1456 x112 or drew@unityunitarian.org.

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents: *Gender UnChecked!*

Saturday, June 13 • 3:00 and 7:30 p.m. • Ordway Concert Hall

Gender UnChecked! smashes the boxes of gender stereotypes with songs, playful and profound, that change the conversation on gender identity. Use promo code FAITH for 15% off your ticket purchase! (Not applicable for student/senior tickets.) www.ovmc.org

Attention Artists!

Applications are now being accepted for month-long (2015-16 church year) exhibits in the Parish Hall gallery. Exhibit guidelines and application are online at www.unityunitarian.org/parish-hall-artists.html. The application deadline is June 30.

General Assembly 2015: *Building A New Way*

June 24-28, Portland, OR

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; each congregation sends voting delegates. For more information visit www.uua.org/ga. Contact Lindasusan Ulrich at lindasusan@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129 if you are interested in representing Unity Church as a delegate.

Do people confide in you?

Take Marital First Responders Training

Saturday, June 20 • 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Now that we have legalized gay marriage in Minnesota, liberal churches are focusing more on how to support all marriages once they are formed. Unity has been the launching pad for a national project called Marital First Responders, developed by Unity Church member Bill Doherty. Five percent of Unity Church members have already been trained, and we are aiming for 10%! If friends sometimes confide in you about their relationship challenges and you want to feel more confident in how to be supportive and helpful, then take Marital First Responders training. Registration \$10: <http://bit.ly/mfrJUNE2015>

Contemplative Walk

Saturday, June 20 • 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Are you one of those people who most deeply connects with Self and the Beyond out in nature? Come outside and join Spiritual Director Sarah Cledwyn for a Contemplative Walk on Saturday, June 20, at 9:00 a.m. There will be a short introduction followed by a quiet walk through the Hidden Falls Regional Park in St. Paul. This event is free and open to all. Please RSVP to Sarah Cledwyn at sarahcledwyn@gmail.com for directions and more information.

This Week in Religious Education (R.E.)

Summer Sundays in the Garden begins today! Great for children ages 4-12. Please meet in our outdoor garden, next to the parking lot. No registration is necessary but drop-in capacity will be limited by the number of adult volunteers present. If you would like to help, contact Anna Newton (newtona@comcast.net) or KP Hong (kp@unityunitarian.org). Nursery care for younger children continues throughout summer.

High School Senior Bridging Sunday is June 7. Graduating seniors and parents should RSVP to Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112.

We have two summer enrollment/orientation sessions for 2015-16 Religious Education: Sunday, June 14, at 11:30 a.m., and Sunday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m. Families will have a chance to enroll children, sign up for a volunteer roll, and share in orientation to next year's R.E. RSVP to: kp@unityunitarian.org

Enrollment information for COA and OWL (2015-16) is available online. For questions, please contact Drew Danielson at drew@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x112

- COA: www.unityunitarian.org/grade-9-coming-of-age.html
- OWL: www.unityunitarian.org/our-whole-lives.html

This Week at Unity Church

Sunday, May 24

Afterthoughts 11:15 a.m., Gannett Room
Welcome to Unity 12:15 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Tower Club 5:30 p.m., Center Room

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day: Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

Young Adult Potluck 6:30 p.m., Center Room
Sangha Meditation 5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel

Wednesday, May 27

Mano a Mano Team 5:30 p.m., Gannett Room
COA Orientation 7:00 p.m., Robbins Parlor
Committing to Unity 7:15 p.m., Center Room

Thursday, May 28

Women's Retirement Group 1:00 p.m., Center Room
Grief Coalition 5:30 p.m., Ames Chapel

Open Page Writing Session: Wisdom's Crossroads

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Free; RSVP required to karen@unityunitarian.org

"At the crossroads, Wisdom takes her stand." At the crossroads of our own times, this writing session explores the proverbial wisdom, old and new, that is needed today and where we might find it, in the world and within ourselves.

Led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, Open Page writing sessions are opportunities to correspond with the "still, small voice within." Using stories, poetry, images and objects as well as wisdom from religious teachings, science and history, participants reflect on the month's theme in their own words and on their own pages. No writing experience is necessary.

A Celebration for Lindasusan Ulrich

Join us in celebrating Lindasusan Ulrich during her final worship service as Hallman Ministerial Intern on Sunday, June 21, at 10:00 a.m. Gratitude, well-wishes, and treats will be shared in the Parish Hall following the service.

Unity Arts Camp: July 6-10 and 13-17

Unity Arts Camp is an art playground. Camp Director Rene Meyer-Grimberg is looking for players to lead games and projects and to just hang out with youth (and elders!). You set the times you can commit to. Contact Rene at unityartscamp@gmail.com.

Unity Chalice Camp: July 20-24 and 27-31

Youth entering grades 1-6 are invited to participate in this week-long summer camp full of Unitarian Universalist values, fun games, art projects, and community building. Campers return year after year! Don't let your child miss out! Online registration is available at www.unityunitarian.org/summer-camp-registration.html

Upcoming Worship Service: May 31 • 10:00 a.m.

Soul Force — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Mahatma Gandhi used the Sanskrit word Satyagraha, translated in English to "soul force," to refer to the power of non-violence. Derek Mitchell, Executive Director of the Holdeen India Program, will join Janne for a special service on the ways in which we carry on the work Gandhi began. Musicians: Unity Choir

Holdeen Program and Luncheon

Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service on May 31, Derek Mitchell will host a conversation about Holdeen and the program's ongoing work promoting equity in India. Lunch will be served and donations to off-set the cost of the lunch will be gratefully accepted.

Our Ministry of Generosity

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to a chosen community non-profit recipient. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.** On May 10, \$1825.91 was collected in the Sunday offering. SteppingStone Theater will receive a donation of \$1278.14. On May 17, \$4505.11 was collected in the Sunday offering and the Unity Church Innovation Fund will receive the entire amount. Information about today's offering recipient, Veterans for Peace Minnesota, can be found in your order of service. The offering recipient on May 31 is the Hmong Arboretum.

Ordination of Ashley Horan

During a special meeting held on Sunday, May 17, the congregation of Unity Church unanimously approved a motion to ordain Ashley Horan into the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Ashley's ordination will be held in the sanctuary at Unity Church on Saturday, October 3, 2015. Watch for details and an invitation later this summer!

Grand Old Day Parking Alert

Be aware that on Sunday, June 7, street parking will be limited due to the Grand Old Day street festival. The parking lots will be managed by Unity Church youth and adults so that worshippers can park while fair-goers contribute money toward our youth and community outreach ministries.

Wanted! Summer Musicians

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with Unity Church members and friends. Summer lay-led services begin on June 28 and continue through August 31. If you are interested in participating as a musician during a summer service, please contact Kathleen Bartholomay at 651-343-4764 or kathleenbartholomay297@gmail.com.

Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a summer service, please contact Marcy Mann-Anderson at 651-228-1456 x110 or marcy@unityunitarian.org for available dates (June 7-August 30) and details.

Return your library books!

A gentle reminder: Please return your library materials before the church year ends. There is a return basket in the Anderson Library and a wooden book return outside the Whitman Children's Library on the lower level.

Join the Compost Bucket Brigade

Our church food system includes compost that we use in our children's garden. We sustain this system through volunteers and need people to sign up to maintain the system over the summer. Sign up to empty compost buckets! <http://bit.ly/compostbucketbrigade>.

	<p>Writers & Artists: for early/first consideration, submit your work to Cairns The Unity Church Journal of the Arts Vol. 7 by June 15, 2015</p>
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